

09/601,028 to Himmelsbach et al.,  
Response filed 7 28 May 2004

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**Amendments to the claims**

Amend claim 1, 12 and 16, and cancel claims 3 and 9; add new claim 35-36.

1. (Currently amended) A backing material for medical purposes, characterized in that the backing material is a nonwoven, overstitched by yarns, the backing material is coated partially or over its entire area on at least one side with an adhesive composition further comprising at least one pharmacologically active agent and wherein the adhesive composition is a hot-melt adhesive comprising one or more block copolymers, and wherein at least one of the copolymer blocks further comprises styrene,  
and the nonwoven backing is further characterized in that the number of stitches on the web is at least 3/cm and less than 30/cm.

2. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes, characterized in that the backing material is a nonwoven which is reinforced by the formation of stitches formed by loops from the fibers of the web, and the backing material is coated partially or over its entire area on at least one side with an adhesive composition further comprising at least one pharmacologically active agent and wherein the adhesive composition comprises one or more block copolymers, and wherein at least one of the copolymer blocks further comprises polystyrene.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the backing material generates a compression force of from 0.2 N/cm to 10 N/cm at an elongation of from 20% to 70%.

5. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the backing material has a basis weight of up to 500 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

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6. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the backing material is reinforced with one or more monofil, multifil, staple fibre or spun fibre yarns and/or with oriented high-strength fibres, the yarns and/or fibres having in particular a strength of at least 40 cN/tex.
7. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the backing material can be torn by hand perpendicular to the orientation of the stitches and/or in the direction of the stitches and/or perpendicular to the orientation of the reinforcement and/or in the direction of the reinforcement.
8. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition comprises a releasable active substance or substances in an amount of from 0.01 to 60% by weight.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition has a dynamic-complex glass transition temperature at a frequency of 0.1 rad/s of less than 15°C.
11. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition was foamed.
12. (Currently amended) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition is applied partially to the backing material. ~~especially by halftone printing, thermal screen printing, thermal flexographic printing or intaglio printing.~~
13. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition has been sprayed on.

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14. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition is applied in the form of polygeometric domes to the backing material.
15. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition is applied to the backing material with a weight per unit area of greater than 15 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
16. (Currently amended) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive composition can be sterilized, preferably with  $\gamma$  (gamma) radiation.
17. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that on the side opposite that coated with the self-adhesive composition, the backing material is finished with a water-repellent layer, impregnation, release layer and/or coating.
18. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one additional layer comprising sheets, foams or nonwovens is applied on the backing material.
19. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the backing material is coated with metallic substances by vapour deposition.
20. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the coated backing material is covered after application of the self-adhesive composition or is provided with a wound pad or with padding.

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21. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 1, characterized in that the number of longitudinal stitches on the web is at least 3/cm.
22. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to Claim 21, characterized in that the number of longitudinal stitches on the web is from 5 to 50/cm.
23. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to Claim 5, characterized in that the backing material has a basis weight of from 10 to 350 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
24. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 8, characterized in that the adhesive composition comprises a releasable active substance or substances in an amount of from 0.1 to 20% by weight.
25. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 10, characterized in that the adhesive composition has a dynamic-complex glass transition temperature at a frequency of 0.1 rad/s of less from 3°C to -30°C.
26. (Previously presented) The backing for medical purposes according to claim 25, characterized in that the adhesive composition has a dynamic-complex glass transition temperature at a frequency of 0.1 rad/s of less from -3°C to -25°C.
27. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 15, characterized in that the adhesive composition is applied to the backing material with a weight per unit area of between 90 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 500 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
28. (Previously presented) The backing material for medical purposes according to claim 27, characterized in that the adhesive composition is applied to the backing material with a weight per unit area of between 130 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 500 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

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29. (Previously presented) The backing material of claim 1 wherein the at least one pharmacologically active agent comprises one or more pharmacologically active compounds.
30. (Previously presented) The backing material in claim 1 wherein the at least one pharmacologically active agent comprises one or more extracts of biological material.
31. (Previously presented) The backing material in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the at least one pharmacologically active agent is not in co-mixture with the adhesive composition.
32. (Previously presented) The backing material in claim 31 wherein the not co-mixed portion of the pharmacologically active agent is in one or more forms selected from the group consisting of particles, pellets, fibers or filaments, and regular- or irregular-shaped fragments.
33. (Previously presented) The backing material of claim 1, wherein the adhesive comprises between 10 wt.-% and 90 wt.-% of block copolymers.
34. (Previously presented) The backing material of claim 1, wherein the polystyrene block copolymer comprises units selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, butylenes, butadiene, isoprene, or mixtures thereof.
35. (New) The backing material of claim 12, wherein the adhesive composition is applied by a method selected from the group consisting of halftone printing, thermal screen printing, thermal flexographic printing and intaglio printing.
36. (New) The backing material of claim 16 wherein the sterilization is by  $\gamma$ -irradiation.